

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

EB-07 /068 W

----- 069405

R 130910Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6894

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 2216

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PORG, ASEAN, JA

SUBJ: ASEAN NON-INVITATION TO PM MIKI

REF: CANBERRA 1052

SUMMARY: MALAYSIAN CONCERN OVER HANOI REACTION AND JAKARTA'S LEADERSHIP ASPIRATIONS ARE REGARDED BY JAPANESE AS HAVING KILLED BID FOR PM MIKI TO ATTEND POST-ASEAN SUMMIT CONSULTATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, FONOFF DOUBTS ANY DAMAGE WAS DONE AND MAYBE SOME GOOD ACCOMPLISHED BY STRONG INDICATION OF SUPPORT FOR ASEAN BY MIKI AND AUSTRALIA'S FRASER. MIKI IS STILL INTENT ON STRENGTHENING TIES WITH SE ASIANS AND WILL PROBABLY TRY FOR A TOUR LATER THIS YEAR. END SUMMARY.

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1. ASEAN DECISION NOT TO INVITE PM MIKI TO ATTEND

POST-SUMMIT CONSULTATIONS STEMMED PRIMARILY FROM MALAYSIA'S CONCERN THAT OTHER ASIANS, PARTICULARLY THE INDOCHINA STATES, WOULD INTERPRET AN INVITATION AS FORMATION OF AN ANTI-INDOCHINA BLOC. PARALLEL WITH DEFUNCT ASPAC WAS TOO OBVIOUS. KUALA LUMPUR IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE ON THIS ISSUE AT PRESENT, ACCORDING TO FONOFF SECOND SE ASIA DIVDIR TANINO, BECAUSE KUALA LUMPUR PLANS AN APPROACH VERY SOON TO HANOI FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS (PROTECT AND CLOSE HOLD). NECESSITY FOR MALAYSIAN PM HUSSEIN TO ATTEND INAUGURAL CEREMONIES WAS EXCUSE GIVEN JAPANESE FOR DECISION AGAINST INVITATION TO MIKI.

2. JAPANESE ALSO BELIEVE THAT INDONESIA WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT BID TO TOKYO OR CANBERRA TO PARTICIPATE. TANINO TOLD US THAT JAKARTA IS STILL JEALOUS OF ITS PREMIER ROLE IN ASEAN AND WOULD NOT DESIRE PARTICIPATION BY OTHER MAJOR POWERS UNTIL JAKARTA HAD CONSOLIDATED ITS LEADERSHIP AMONG ASEAN EQUALS.

3. AS IS KNOWN, THAIS OPENLY FAVORED THE INVITATION, SINGAPORE WAS FAVORABLE IF MIKI BROUGHT ALONG ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PACKAGE, AND MANILA, DESPITE SOME JEALOUSY TOWARD WOULD-BE HOSTS IN BALI, NEVERTHELESS, DID NOT OPPOSE INVITATIONS TO MIKI AND FRASER.

4. JAPANESE ARE NOT ABASHED THAT INVITATION DID NOT MATERIALIZE. IN MEETING WITH FOUR FONOFF ASIAN DIVISION DIRECTORS (INCLUDING TANIMO) IN DECEMBER, MIKI LABELED 1976 THE "YEAR OF ASIA" AND TOLD THE DIRECTORS HE INTENDED TO EMPHASIZE ASIA BY CONCLUDING A PEACE FRIENDSHIP TREATY WITH PEKING, AND EITHER PARTICIPATING IN A MULTILATERAL POST-ASEAN SUMMIT CONFERENCE OR VISITING INDIVIDUAL SE ASIAN COUNTRIES. AFTER FAILURE AT PATTAYA, TANINO EXPECTS MIKI TO TRY TO VISIT ASEAN WHEN IT BECOMES CONVENIENT AND "WHEN THE LOCKHEED SCANDAL" SUBSIDES AND LONGER RANGE PLANNING CAN RESUME. ATTEMPT FOR BALI HAD BEEN POLITICAL DECISION MADE

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BY MIKI AND IN FONOFF VIEW, TIMING WAS BAD, NEVERTHELESS, NO HARM HAS BEEN DONE. IN FACT, EFFORTS BY CANBERRA AND TOKYO HAVE PROBABLY ON BALANCE HELPED GIVE CONFIDENCE TO THE ASEAN LEADERS.

5. COMMENT: WE ALSO DOUBT THAT GESTURE DID HARM AND IT PROBABLY SERVED TO BOLSTER ASEAN CONFIDENCE. WHEN HIS EFFORTS BECAME OBVIOUS MIKI LOOKED

A LITTLE OVER-ZEALOUS AND OVERLY MOTIVATED BY JAPANESE
DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONCERNS BUT THE ILL-WIND OF LOCKHEED
HAS SPARED HIM WHAT CRITICISM MIGHT HAVE APPEARED
IN THE PRESS IN QUIETER TIMES. NEVERTHELESS,
MIKI REMAINS ANXIOUS TO IMPROVE TIES WITH SE ASIANS
AND WE EXPECT HIM TO CONTINUE THESE EFFORTS LATER.
HODGSON

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